



Slater-Price Concludes Year As Chair

Fiscal Stability, Top Public Safety Cited As Her Top Achievements

The first meeting of January 2011 was the last time Supervisor Pam Slater-Price sat as Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors this year. Supervisor Slater-Price passed the gavel to incoming Chairman Bill Horn following the formal oaths of office to the newly elected public officials.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the people of the County of San Diego as chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors," says Supervisor Slater-Price. "Last year was a year of challenge, of uncertainty. I believe this board has served with distinction. My colleagues showed what they are made of. I am especially pleased to have worked together on so many important initiatives."

The greatest challenge, says Supervisor Slater-Price, is the local economy.

"We worked hard to keep the county in the black, avoiding problems many other governments have faced in these tough times. We did all of this in the face of mounting pressure to spend down our reserves, and to backfill state-mandated programs. These are programs that the state Legislature puts in place, then cuts off the funding."



Outgoing Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price passes the gavel to Supervisor Bill Horn, the 2011 Chairman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

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Slater-Price Gains Approval for Drug-Abuse Prevention Plan

'Not One More Life,' Declares Slater-Price of OxyContin Threat

The threat of teen-age drug addiction is real and growing. This time, the drug of choice is OxyContin, and related synthetic opiate painkillers. Users turn these drugs into games of "pharmaceutical roulette," or engage in "pharming parties." They are, literally, playing with their lives.

In the latest development in a year-long effort to focus public attention on this crisis, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price brought to the Board of Supervisors in December the

Prescription Drug Abuse Plan for San Diego County, which passed with unanimous support.

"I cannot emphasize it enough – our children are becoming slaves to addicted drugs, which they steal from the family's medicine cabinet not recognizing the consequences of their actions," says Supervisor Slater-Price.

"They might mix these drugs with alcohol or another substance, thinking wrongly that they are safe because they have seen mom or dad or gramps take these pills. They are literally playing roulette with their lives. And, sadly, many have lost this

game, ending what should have been lives full of promise and adventure."

In supporting Supervisor Slater-Price, Communities Against Substance Abuse, in a written letter to the five supervisors, called prescription drug abuse their top priority:

"Our agency has been a consistent partner with the Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force, heavily promoting and staffing all three take-back events in East Region. We are committed to implementing research supported strategies to prevent the abuse of prescription drugs among youth and adults."

Follow this story on the back page under "DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PLAN"



Contact us at:

(619) 531-5533
(800) 852-7334



Write us at:

1600 Pacific Highway,
Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Website:

www.pamslater.com



E-mail:

pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-Slate:

E-Slate_editor@roadrunner.com



Twitter:

@PamSlaterPrice

The Staff of Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price

John Weil

Chief of Staff

Sachiko Kohatsu

Land Use

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Public Safety & Budget

Jill Monroe

Health

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Region's Emergency Response Upgraded

A coordinated, unified regional response to a catastrophic event – earthquake, wildfire or terrorist attack – is being improved through a \$7.7 million grant to the county Office of Emergency Services, which oversees disaster response in San Diego County.

"These funds help local agencies prepare for the possibility of a terrorist attack. We hope it never happens here. But if it does, the region must be ready to respond swiftly," explains Supervisor Pam Slater-Price.

"Public safety is the No. 1 responsibility of local government. We have outstanding first responders in this region who are well-trained and –equipped to deal with any threat, be it natural or man-induced."

One of the programs is the San Diego Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center, a multi-agency

task force that focuses intelligence and information sharing. It will receive \$1 million.

Another \$317,000 will go to the Metropolitan Medical Strike Team, which brings together health, law enforcement, hazardous materials crews and others to train to respond to an event involving weapons of mass destruction.

"The Office of Emergency Services coordinates regional responses to all types of emergencies, including the possibility of terrorism. We need to make sure that we have a comprehensive plan and that all agencies are

trained," said Ron Lane, director of the Office of Emergency Services.

To prepare you and your family for an emergency, visit www.ReadySanDiego.org.



AT THE COUNTY

Winter Storm Damage Set At \$6 Million

A formal proclamation of local emergency was approved by the Board of Supervisors at its first meeting in January, clearing the way to seek state help to address the several million dollars of damage inflicted by the severe December storms that flooded parts of San Diego County.

Cities and agencies across San Diego County estimate they suffered more than \$6 million in damage, including more than \$3 million in damage to North County Transit District railroad tracks in coastal North County.

County officials estimate the unincorporated areas suffered more than \$1 million in damage to roads, parks, preserves, and trails, sewage system infrastructure and watershed protection systems.

As the regional authority, the county Office of Emergency Services processes and submits all aid requests from local cities and agencies to the California Emergency Management Agency.

Vaccines Now Mandatory

A new law requiring middle and high school students to be vaccinated against whooping cough will go into effect for the 2011-12 school year. This requirement will

help prevent outbreaks such as the current one that resulted in the highest number of pertussis cases to California in 50 years.

Beginning July 1, all students entering 7th through 12th grades in both public and private schools must show proof that they have had a Tdap booster shot. Schools have been informed there will be no grace period and that they should strictly enforce the requirement.

Two San Diego County infants died of complications resulting from pertussis and confirmed whooping cough cases reached 1,106 by year's end.

Parents can get the vaccine from their primary care physician. Residents who do not have health care coverage may visit a HHS Public Health Center. Northgate markets offer the booster shots on weekends through January. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the following locations:

- 1410 S. 43rd St., San Diego.
- 606 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido.
- 1150 E. Vista Way, Vista.
- 1346 S. Mission Road, Fallbrook.



A typical case of pertussis in children and adults starts with a cough and runny nose for one-to-two weeks, followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that sometimes end with a whooping sound.

Child Services Are Expanded

During a time of nationwide cutbacks in government services, the County of San Diego expanded the availability of Department of Child Support Services, which is now open weekdays at the Vista Courthouse, 325 S. Melrose Drive.

The Vista office was open primarily in conjunction with court cases on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Now, a full range of services are offered to the public for appointments and walk-ins from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Payments will be accepted at the Vista location, and there is a self-service kiosk available for customer convenience. The Superior Court Businesses Office is available at the same location.

The Department of Child Support Services establishes and enforces child and medical support orders; assists in paternity establishment; and collects and distributes child and spousal support payments.



Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price (above) enjoys a laugh as Supervisor Bill Horn presents a gift recognizing her year of leadership of the Board of Supervisors. The framed photograph of the County Administration Building (left) signifies that the people's work goes on night and day. Supervisor Slater-Price thanks Supervisor Horn (right), who succeeds Slater-Price as chair of the Board of Supervisors.



Miss San Diego County Arianna Afsar (above) leads the Board of Supervisors as she sings the Star Spangled Banner to open the 2011 Board of Supervisors schedule. Supervisor Slater-Price (right) presides over her final meeting as chair of the Board of Supervisors.



Supervisor Slater-Price is joined by San Diego County's two ranking law-enforcement members. Sheriff Bill Gore and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis were sworn in for new four-year terms.

CHAIR ...

Supervisor Slater-Price reviewed other accomplishments in 2010:

- Maintained a healthy financial reserve and highest bond rating.
- Provided top-notch public safety.
- Paid for necessary county construction projects substantially in cash so that future generations would not be saddled with a huge debt. This included the Medical Examiner's Center and two new office buildings at our operations center.
- Poised to break ground on Las Colinas, the new women's jail.
- Built a stronger, more efficient firefighting response and dramatically enhanced fire protection.

Another initiative Supervisor Slater-Price highlighted was the E-Comment online feedback she introduced in August. "By using technology we made it easier to improve communication between the Board of Supervisors and our constituents, especially those who live in the back country and cannot easily drive to downtown San Diego for the meetings. They now can deliver their opinions through the click of the mouse."

Stressing healthy lifestyles were also an important focus of 2010.

"The cost of obesity, especially among our youth, and other health issues is growing and will affect future funding decisions of the Board of Supervisors," warns Supervisor Slater-Price. "By changing behavior today, we are saving thousands of taxpayer dollars that would go to pay for medical care and lost productivity."

Drug Abuse Prevention Plan

A survey conducted by the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future study reveals that in 2009, illicit drug use among 8th-, 10th- and 12th-graders jumps to 16 percent of respondents. Five percent of respondents admitted to taking OxyContin. And those figures pale compared to other surveys.

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse compiled these numbers:

- Two million Americans use prescription painkillers annually.
- In some areas of the country, addiction to painkillers has overtaken that of cocaine and marijuana.
- About 9 percent of Americans have used painkillers illegally (without a prescription) in their lifetimes.
- About 1.6 million Americans used painkillers for non-medical reasons since 1998.
- Among young people age 12 to 17, the use of painkillers

One new initiative introduced by Supervisor Slater-Price to promote healthy lifestyles was the 3-4-50 program, a revolutionary strategy that attacks poor nutrition, lack of physical education and tobacco use. The program is now a nationally-recognized mainstay of county health programs.

Another health initiative focused on the dangers of teen-age drinking and driving. In September, Supervisor Slater-Price kicked off a nine-month multi-agency collaboration with the Sheriff's and Health Departments to analyze regional alcohol consumption policies to bring them all in line, and to educate teen drivers and their parents about the dangers of all unsafe driving.

As a founding member of the Prescription Drug Abuse Task force Supervisor Slater-Price introduced two countywide efforts to combat prescription drug abuse. In just one day, volunteers collected nearly 4,800 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs from citizens cleaning out their medicine cabinets. Teaming with Sheriff Bill Gore, Supervisor Slater-Price then championed the creation of 23 drop sites where residents could properly dispose of unwanted drugs.

Another benchmark cited by Supervisor Slater-Price was the county library system, which topped the 10 million mark for books and other items circulated.

"That is one of the many reasons why I support my district libraries with Neighborhood Reinvestment grants to Encinitas, Solana Beach and Del Mar," she says. "In Cardiff, we brought jobs to the region by going forward with the construction of library expansion."



Workers weld frames on the expansion of the Cardiff-by-the-Sea Library.

recreationally increased from 6.3 to 32.4 per 1,000 new users from 1990-1998.

- Among young adults age 18 to 25, this rate rose from 7.7 to 20.3 per 1,000 new users from 1990-1998

"We are working hard to expose this problem and create safe mechanisms for disposing of unwanted prescription drugs so that our children do not take that first step into the cycle of abuse," says Supervisor Slater-Price. "The record volume of prescription drugs surrendered during the Take-back events earlier this year validates the quantity of drugs available for abuse. We have launched a disposal system where parents can safely dispose of medicines in specially secured steal boxes at convenient locations, such as sheriff's stations and hospitals.

"But more still needs to be done. We lost 51 promising lives due to oxycodone-related overdoses in 2008. In the past year, we have witnessed a rash of armed robberies at pharmacies. We need to redouble our efforts to bring this plague to its end."